

11/1/01

Bulletin No. 00-31F

M613

M613 Covered Organ and Tissue Transplants

Organ transplantation services are covered once the procedure is no longer considered experimental or investigational.

Reimbursement will be made for medically necessary health care services provided to an eligible beneficiary or a live donor and for the harvesting, preservation, and transportation of cadaver organs.

Prior Authorization

Authorization prior to the initiation of services must be obtained from the Office of Vermont Health Access (OVHA) or its designated review agent.

This requirement is administered to assure that organ transplant requests are treated consistently; similarly situated beneficiaries are treated alike; any restriction on the facilities or practitioners that may provide service is consistent with the accessibility of high quality care to eligible beneficiaries; and services for which reimbursement will be made are sufficient in amount, duration, and scope to achieve their purpose.

Standards for Coverage

OVHA or its designated review agent must receive from the beneficiary's attending or referring physician and the transplant center physician the following assurances:

1. The Medicaid beneficiary has a condition for which organ transplantation is the appropriate treatment.
2. All other medically feasible forms of medical or surgical treatment have been considered, and the most effective and appropriate medically indicated alternative for the beneficiary is organ transplantation.
3. The Medicaid beneficiary meets all medical criteria for the proposed type of organ transplantation based upon the prevailing standards and current practices. These would include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Test lab results within identified limits to assure successful transplantation and recovery.
 - b. Diagnostic evaluations of the beneficiary's medical and mental conditions that indicate there will be no significant adverse effect upon the outcome of the transplantation.
 - c. Assessment of other relevant factors that might affect the clinical outcome or adherence to an immunosuppressive regimen and rehabilitation program following the transplant.

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- d. The beneficiary or the beneficiary's parent or guardian or spouse has been fully informed of the risks and benefits of the proposed transplant including the risks of complications, continuing care requirements, and the expected quality of life after the procedure.
- 4. The transplant center meets the following criteria:
 - a. Fully certified as a transplant center by applicable state and federal agencies.
 - b. Is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws which apply to organ acquisition and transplantation including equal access and non-discrimination.
 - c. Has an interdisciplinary team to determine the suitability of candidates for transplantation on an equitable basis.
 - d. Provides surgeons who have a minimum of one year of training and experience appropriate to the organ being transplanted which includes experience in transplant surgery, post-operative care and management of an immunosuppressive regimen.
 - e. At the time Medicaid coverage is requested the center must have performed at least ten transplants of the type requested during the previous twelve months and must provide current documentation that it provides high quality care relative to other transplant centers.
 - f. Provides all medically necessary services required including management of complications of the transplantation and late infection and rejection episodes. Failure of the transplant is considered a complication and re-transplantation is available at the center.

Liability of Other Parties

Medicaid is always the payer of last resort. Medicare and other insurance coverage for which a Medicaid beneficiary is eligible must discharge liability before a claim for payment will be accepted. Coinsurance and deductible amounts will be paid in an amount not to exceed the Medicaid rate for the service.

Any additional charges made to a beneficiary or beneficiary's family after payment by Medicaid is supplementation and is prohibited.

Providers of health care services specifically funded by research or grant monies may not make claim for payment.